THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) Nationalised Banks generally engage full time/part time sweepers/ scavangers for their branches/offices in Bombay. A few banks have entrusted the work, generally in respect of the high rise buildings, to specialised agencies. A few others including Bank of Baroda, employ scavengers on lump sum payment basis in addition to sweepers. Such staff if working for more than 6 hours a week, are entitled to the benefits of Provident Fund, gratuity, earned leave etc. in terms of the bipartite settlements.

Policy on import of Gold by Jewellers

2049. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing policy only some jewellers are eligible to import gold against their export commitments;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the nagative, what are the details of other categories of gold importers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a big difference exists in the prices of gold in the international market and in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Gold is allowed to be imported by HHEC or other nominated public sector agency against exports of gold jewellery and articles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Average price of gold, per 10 grammes in Bombay & London markets were as under:

Year	Bombay Market Price (in Rs.)	London Market Price (in Rs.)
1988 . . .	3202	1947
1989 . . .	3186	1989
Jan., 1990 . .	3383	2236

Gold Reserve with R.B.I.

2050. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gold reserve with Reserve Bank of India has increased during the last five years;

(b) if so, what was the gold stock with R.B.I. at the end of each financial year during the above period and its value at international rates during that period;

(c) what is the quantity of gold seized during the above period, yearwise;

(d) whether Government contemplate to auction the seized gold; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue import licence for import of gold to curb gold smuggling and bring down domestic price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Data on gold reserve of RBI and its value at the international rate

at the end of financial year during the last five years are as under:—

As	Gold Holdings of RBI as included in Foreign Exchange Reserves		Value of Gold at International price at London
	Quality (in 000 Gms.)	Value * (Rs. Cr.)	(Rs. Cr.)
31-3-1986	324,989	274	4467
31-3-1987	324,989	274	5643
31-3-1988	324,989	274	6237
31-3-1989	324,989	274	6257
16-3-1990	332,563	281	7313

*Valued at the Statutory Price of Rs. 84.39 per 10 Grammes.

(c) Quantity of Gold seized under the Customs and Gold Control Act is as under:

Year	Under Customs Act		Under Gold Control Act	
	In Kgs		Yearwise	In Kgs.
1985-86	2481		1985	834
1986-87	2288		1986	719
1987-88	2388		1987	473
1988-89	8086		1988	1331
1989-90	(Upto Feb. 1990) 5723	Upto Dec.	1989	2524

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Seizure of Narcotics by Enforcement Agencies

2051. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of narcotics seized by the enforcement agencies during 1988-89;

(b) the number of people prosecuted and those convicted so far; and

(c) the proposed steps to control drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The quantities of various narcotic